

## A few good cadets: candidates camp out at Space Center Houston

**N**early 200 Junior Reserve Officer Training Candidates trooped into Space Center Houston last month for a late night of learning and inspiration. As part of the JROTC School Overnight Program, the high school students and instructors participated in "hands-on" space science activities with various JSC experts and education counselors from SCH.

As a special highlight of the evening, Astronaut Duane Carey spoke to the cadets and stressed that learning is not only applicable in the formal classroom, but is a lifelong skill necessary to be successful throughout



NASA JSC Photo S99-11688 by Bill Stafford

Astronaut Duane Carey talks to cadets as part of the JROTC School Overnight Program at Space Center Houston.

our lives. Carey said as an astronaut he is constantly challenged to learn new things that even a few years ago he had no idea he would need to know.

Carey further complemented his presentation by showing the cadets imagery of their hometowns in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas as taken from space.

SCH extends special thanks to Paul Hill, Flight Directors Office, John Albright, Energy Systems Division, and Jerry Condon and Ellen Braden of the Aerospace and Flight Mechanics Division for their assistance with the September 24 event. Many JSC employees help with the School Visit Program by giving special presentations and demonstrations at SCH. The SCH Education Department is very grateful for the time and effort they give to support these educational programs. ■

## Boeing vice president guest at George M. Low Leadership Series

**B**e involved with something you care about, stay focused and work as a team – some of the leading points made by Alan R. Mulally, The Boeing Company's senior vice president while addressing JSC leaders at a dinner in late August.

"Everybody wants to be part of something special, part of something really meaningful," said Mulally. "If we, as leaders, can't make our projects meaningful to large numbers of people, then maybe we need to be somewhere else."

Mulally, a 31-year veteran of the world's largest aerospace company, spoke from firsthand experience. As a survivor of the turbulent times at the aviation company, Mulally offered the audience candid advice from his perspective.

Mulally shared his "Paul Harvey" version of Boeing's trials and tribulations of the 90s, explaining that after delivering 446 airplanes in 1992, the company reacted to a plummeting economy and a changing marketplace

in 1995 by producing only 206 aircraft.

"We absolutely lost it," said Mulally. "There wasn't this huge industrial base anymore and we couldn't get parts. We finally had to stop production."

The company charged ahead and recovered by delivering 620 aircraft in 1998.

"There's always a way if you have an attitude that you'll find a way," said

### *Aviation industry keynote offers JSC leaders advice, insight*

At a dead end and faced with airline commitments, the company was at a standstill.

"We went straight through the practices and principles. We got together and figured out what we could do and got a real clean work statement," explained Mulally. "And we communicated that work statement with everyone, all 123,000 employees. I gave them an e-mail update every week. The only way I know to do large-scale projects is to work together."

Mulally. "I knew we could accomplish great things as long as we worked together, but we had to have a shared view about that."

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– Alan R. Mulally

Mulally's advice transcended to JSC and its goals.

"When people see [NASA] it changes their lives – NASA does magical stuff and has a very unique contribution," he said. "Everything in the future is going to be so global. How much of the ISS project is about space station? I think it's really much larger than that."

Mulally's visit was part of the George M. Low Leadership Series, a continuing lecture series initiated by JSC Center Director George Abbey to help center leaders learn from government and industry colleagues.

Mulally's address was the sixth such lecture to more than 200 invited guests of center division chiefs, directors and deputy directors. Previous speakers include Skip LeFauve, former president and chairman of Saturn, and Harry Stonecipher, the president and CEO of McDonnell Douglas Corporation. ■



## Time for auto safety



By Steve Riley

**I**n today's fast-paced world, quite often we are too busy to deal with those things we sometimes take for granted. One of these is our everyday transportation source, our cars. With several driving holidays fast approaching, be sure to take a few minutes to give your car a quick checkup; the price for your few minutes at home is definitely worth the added safety on the road.

Performing these simple checks will make sure your car purrs like a kitten when you get out on the open road. If in doubt, leave the checks to a professional.

♦ **Tire pressure:** With today's advanced radial tires, you cannot "eyeball" the tires to make sure they have adequate pressure. Most cars require a cold tire pressure of around 30 psi; the tires normally don't show that they are low

until down to 10 or 15 psi. That's a blowout waiting to happen. Also, remember that when the seasons change, your pressure does too; every 10-degree drop in outside temperature is a corresponding drop of a pound of tire pressure. Make sure you check the cold pressure – before you drive.

If a tire is unusually low, it may have a leak – get it fixed. Some service centers fix flats free. While you're down checking the pressure, eyeball the tread of each tire – check that you are getting even wear and have plenty of tread left for your trip.

♦ **Underhood fluid levels:** Unlike tires, most of these should be checked when the car is warmed up, but turned off. Make sure that the oil level is between the hash marks on the dipstick,

and is a golden brown; if it is black, be sure to have the oil changed before traveling. The brake fluid should be well above the "low" point; as brakes wear, the level will drop to compensate. Check the fluid in the radiator's overflow tank – when the car is hot, the tank should be near full. Don't remove the radiator cap when the car is hot. Also check the power steering fluid level, transmission fluid level (which usually requires that the car be running), and the washer fluid level.

♦ **Lights and signals:** Have a friend help you check that all of your headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and reverse lights are functioning properly. The windshield wipers should also be checked and used to ensure they still work adequately.

♦ **Driver check:** Lastly, give your car a simple driving check. Turn off the radio and fan, and listen for any unusual sounds, or if you feel any funny vibrations or directional instability. If you think you hear or feel something strange, don't be fearful of getting your car checked. An hour spent at a service center is much better than countless hours stranded on the open road.

For proper fluid types and other good information, read your car's owner's manual. Remember – if you have any doubt about these safety checks, they are probably best left to a professional shop. ■

## *Drive safely!*